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## WASHINGTON, D. C.

For the *National Era*.

## FRANZ WERNER: A REMINISCENCE.

BY EDWARD SPENCER.

Franz Werner was my bosom friend at Heidelberg. He was, when I first knew him, a handsome man, of some twenty years; very dark, almost swarthy, in complexion; with moist black hair, that fell in heavy folds, as it were, and half-curls, about a large square-shaped skull; and a broad, heavy brow, that was especially remarkable for the two deep wrinkles that traversed it horizontally; with a large, quick, wild, black eye, which was wont to dilate and glow under the least excitement; and a thick beard of dark hair, soft and silken as an artist's that grew about but half concealed the mobility and nervous susceptibility of his mouth. His lower face was square and hard in its lines. He was a well-built man, broad-shouldered and firmly set, capable of prodigious exertion and display of strength, when it pleased him—as it seldom did—to make the effort. He was generally spoken of as belonging to that category usually styled "men of genius," and, such, was excused for being singular and eccentric. The world has such a scrupulous faith in the doctrine of "compensation," that it cannot be persuaded that "genius" and "common sense" will ever unite to crown one individual.

Franz claimed to be descended from a certain famous Von Werner, who had ruled in a Rhine city, as robber-knight, in the good old feudal times, and he accounted for his own manifestations of the Berserk spirit by saying, that some of the fierce old blood was still leavening in his turbulent veins.

His father, after seeing much of life and service, and after settling down as a small farmer, and marrying, had suddenly been roused by the stirring news from Greece; and, going off, had fallen gloriously at Missolonghi, leaving his wife and son with but a small competence. By great economy, Franz's mother had managed to support herself and educate her son. He had gone through the proper preparatory studies, and when I entered the University, he was in his second year there.

He was regarded by most persons simply as a wild, turbulent fellow, who, if he had any talents, was either too lazy or too reckless to employ them—irregular, singular, capricious in his habits and dislikes, obeying no rule, preserving no order, and, in short, a perfect idiot. Was he to be the chairman and longsister, the principal or second in half the duels; an avenger to the Government, an abhorrer to the Proctor. If any out-of-the-way ramble was proposed in vacation, Franz, his violin, and his chess board, always belonged to the party. In respect of music and chess, he possessed a wonderful excellence. His violin, an old, battered, dark affair, that he carried was a genuine Stradivarius; and his chess, the best thing of life—such wild, unearthly music did it play! As a player, that few in the University could equal, he always impressed me as the paroxysm example I had ever listened to. Never shall I forget that "Teufelsfied" as it was familiarly known to us all, was only played when Franz was there.

Franz only played it when under some extraordinary excitement, and he always asserted that he had dreamt it, and never played nor would play it except when driven on by an incomprehensible impulse that was unable to resist.

His wonderful powers were fully as remarkable. Passionately fond of the game, he had made himself master of its history, its philosophy, and all its subtle intricacies. No one played with more apparent recklessness, yet no one could resist the strange, desperate, ferocious, attack, which he made. While at the University, he never met his equal. Indeed, it was whispered that he owned his continued residence in College to the desire of an ardent enthusiast to retrieve the numerous debts they had suffered at his hands.

It is probable—that I advance this simply as a matter of record, that he carried was a genuine Stradivarius; and his chess, the best thing of life—such wild, unearthy music did it play! As a player, that few in the University could equal, he always impressed me as the paroxysm example I had ever listened to. Never shall I forget that "Teufelsfied" as it was familiarly known to us all, was only played when Franz was there.

Because there, just on that quiet plateau, away from the world and its cares, the blue ether around, the everlasting white glory of the glaciers above, and the soft green of the管理 trees below—there is a convent where the first Brahma taught his divine game. Him I seek, for him alone will I acknowledge my master."

"How did you learn all this, Franz?"

"In a dream—a holy dream—checkmate. Now, comrade, you will not try to beat me again, because I did not seem sober. Come, get up to bed. It is time for you to do your work to do."

So said he, palied down, volume by volume from his shelf, and commenced reading, while I retired to my bedroom, as it was very late.

I had been asleep perhaps two hours, when I was aroused by the nearly notes of the "Teufelsfied." This singular air, tune, fantaisie, or whatever we might please to call it, was at once the most significant and the most incomprehensible musical composition I had ever chanced to hear. I have to employ paradox in order to convey my idea of it. Most significant, because it was, in a manner, the language of possessing a meaning beyond the mere "composers of sweet sounds," of indicating the effort and agony of a thought or passion that struggled for utterance—a plaint, a wail, the despairing cry of a lost soul, blent with the yelled exaltation of a frenzied.

Most incomprehensible it was, because it seemed to give token of only semi-consciousness on the part of the performer—to imitate the gropings of one whom the lighting has even now struck—hark, how it bursts away from the dead, despairing shriek of the hopeless, full of hell.

Just so vaguely as I have here tried to reproduce the impression, did it impress every one. None heard it but with the pain of an apprehension they could not account for, with an anxious uneasiness for which they could give no reason.

Portions of it there were, cadences and under-tones of melody which would draw the unconscious tears down the cheek; other portions you till you wavered your hand, and found the short tremor behind your lips; other portions again, would drop a full horror through the veins, and the face would pale with the wild scream of "mauve"; then the stillness of mid-night snander. "Ah! weak, feeble, passionless words, what are ye to the thing itself!"

And now he was playing the last few bars. The soft, low murmur, the weary plaint, the last "let-me-alone," as it were, of the life-long wretch—hark, how it bursts away from the dead, despairing shriek of the hopeless, full of hell.

I heard the quick rap of the claspman put energetically down upon the board, and then Franz's voice shouting, screaming—

"I have you, Checkmate!" Then followed the fall of a heavy body upon the floor, and the clatter of the overturned chessmen.

I rushed out, and found Franz lying upon the floor, in a strong convolution. I got him on his bed; a doctor was sent for, and, pronouncing it "epilepsy in a modified and complicated form," proceeded to make application of the proper remedies, and with success.

"Fratercula," murmured Franz a day or two

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G. BAILEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR; JOHN G. WHITTIER, CORRESPONDING EDITOR.

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## NO. 572.

jolly night sealed our acquaintance and made us friends.

I specially found that his wild revelry and reckless dissipation was but an assumption, an out-growth, so to speak, under which was concealed a profoundly active and terrible nature. He drank and dissipated, not to excite, but to deaden. This he did not confess, and it was only revealed to me in glimpses, half lights, that flashed through the darkness, as the rays of a star sometimes struggle fitfully from behind a storm-cloud. Oh how sad seemed his wildest madness to us who knew him, and knew why he was so madly wild! I was often fearful lest this extravagant conflict of actual with what would eventually be.

Once he had returned to our room, we were once more at war. It was now, night, after a dash of unusual extravagance, and prolonged, even for him, and in which he had exchanged all former performances of the kind, reproducing, as he claimed to have done, the middle-age spree of wild Prince Puckler and his three comrades, so extensively filling the traditions of Heidelberg. I was busy with some mathematics when he burst in, laughing, singing, fiddling, and yet not drunk. I never saw him drunk. I tried to persuade him to bed, but he would not. Drawing out his chair, he arranged the pieces, and insisted upon my joining him in a game, laid aside my papers, willing to humor him, for I saw that he was terribly excited, and—shall I confess it?—half hoping that I might be able to conquer him as he then was, and win the fame of so great a victory.

"Play, *fratercula*," said he, glancing at the board, and then directing his attention to the tuning of his violin.

"I wonder who invented chess," said I, after we had made four or five moves. Franz had down the violin, and I had rejoiced in his improved in appearance—calm, hopeful, even gleeful—so that I could scarce believe him to be the same morose Franz who had excited so much remark at the University. He had sold out everything, he told me, and now they were en route for America, where they proposed to establish themselves permanently.

They had people their future with every imaginable difficulty; and it rejoiced my heart to see my friend, of whom I had argued so glibly, in the enjoyment of so much happiness. I shook hands with both as I passed from him, and left them with many good wishes and many real hopes.

I met him finally, however, during one of our vacations, on the Rhine. He had a very fine, blushing young lady on his arm, whom he introduced to me as his wife, Lili. He was as much improved in appearance—calm, hopeful, even gleeful—so that I could scarce believe him to be the same morose Franz who had excited so much remark at the University. He had sold out everything, he told me, and now they were en route for America, where they proposed to establish themselves permanently.

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*Enquirer*, which has expressed no opinion, except.

**Illinois.**—*Quincy Herald*, Bloomington *Flag*, *State Register*, Chicago *Times*, *Glenel Courier*, *Peoria News*, *Peoria Bulletin*, Rock Island *Argus*, and some thirty-four others, (western) being the entire Democratic press of the State. The Democracy represented by these papers, and their sentiments are uttered by them, polled at the last election, for Mr. Buchanan, 535,000.

We have omitted the State of New York, whose Democratic press, with the exception of the Albany *Argus* and Rochester *Union*—the editors of which are shortly to be made office-holders—denounce this Kansas monstrosity; and the Democracy represented by them, have omitted the New Hampshire *Patriot*, both oppose Calhoun's Constitution; we have omitted Pennsylvania, who, under the influence of Farnsworth, the hero of the Free State, in 1856, and secured a victory to our flag; we have omitted the thousands who might be enumerated in these States as standing shoulder to shoulder with their brethren of the Northwest.

## WASHINGTON, D. C.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1857.

### THE NATIONAL ERA.

We are constantly inquired of concerning our subscriptions. It is just as well to be frank with our friends. *From present appearances, we expect to lose about one-third of our list.* Our subscribers plead "hard times;" and all we have to say, is, we are still harder with us.

*New York Herald*, a warm supporter of Mr. Buchanan, announces, with great delight, that its receipts, since the advent of the monetary troubles, are larger than ever.

We have said enough to show our friends how deeply the Era is suffering. It is a topic on which we shall not enlarge.

### TIME OF SUBSCRIPTION EXTENDED.

Notwithstanding the "hard times," and the prospect of a diminished list, we shall favor our subscribers, at the close of the present volume, with an extra number of the Era, containing a copious Index, together with our usual variety of reading matter.

So that our subscribers will receive, this year, fifty-three numbers, instead of fifty-two, which will make the volume close December 31, 1857.

### MR. DOUGLAS, THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE SOUTH.

The position of Mr. Douglas in relation to the Administration and the South, is the subject of much comment. In his speech last week, he was at pains to show that, as to the general principles of the President's message concerning the Kansas Question, there was no difference between him and the Executive; that it contained indeed a forcible argument in favor of submitting the Constitution formed at Lecompton to the popular vote. But, at this point commenced the difference. The President, willing to overlook the departure from this policy, on the ground that the main question in controversy had been submitted by the Convention, was in favor of accepting the Constitution. Mr. Douglas dissented from this, and was pleased to remark that, although the President had waived his objections to the action of the Convention, still, he did not recommend their vote to the adoption of Congress, but simply submitted it, with an expression of his opinion.

In terms, this was a correct statement of the case; but, in fact, the policy of recognizing the Lecompton Convention and accepting its Constitution, is an Administration measure. Nay, it is the Administration measure, for there is no other to which it is committed, which seems to have any prominence or to excite any interest. Had there been a doubt on this point, the prompt advocacy by Mr. Bigler of the Lecompton Constitution, the deep displeasure evinced by Messrs. Davis, Mason, and Brown, at the course of Mr. Douglas, and the assumption throughout the debate following his speech, that the Administration was committed to the support of the Constitution, must have dispelled it.

Mr. Douglas is therefore openly arrayed against this leading Administration measure; and, we assume, that neither he nor the President will give way. For the present, and so long as the question of recognizing or rejecting the Lecompton Constitution shall be the issue, they must stand opposed to each other. Mr. Buchanan will command the entire Democratic vote of the South, probably a portion of its Native American vote, and, so far as we are informed, a majority of the Democratic members from the free States. Mr. Douglas will be sustained by the entire Republican vote, a portion of the Democratic vote from the North, and probably a few of the Native American votes from the South. We speak of the Senate.

Were Mr. Douglas an ordinary man, did he occupy an ordinary position, such antagonism to the leading measure of an Administration of which he is a prominent supporter, would exclude him from the Party, and subject him to its proscription. But, he is a remarkable man, and occupies an extraordinary position, so that it is as difficult to foresee the party relations he is to hold, as it is difficult for the Party itself to define them. Democratic Senators from the South may be indignant—Democratic Senators from the North may be reserved—the Administration may be disposed to show its resentment—but, to excommunicate Mr. Douglas, and repudiate all fellowship with him, is a very different thing. *This has not yet been done.* The Democratic caucus in the Senate, which determines the composition of the Committees, has again placed him at the head of the Territorial Committee, a fact proving that he is still recognized as a leader of the Party!

How long such an anomalous state of things can exist, it is impossible to predict. It is easier to see why it is. The so-called Democracy of the free States is necessary to the South, to which it brought victory in the late Presidential struggle, and which can control the Federal Executive only through its alliance. But, Mr. Douglas is necessary to that Democracy. Destroy him, as a political man, and the hold of the South on the Northern Democracy, as it is called, is severed. Administration patronage may be potential with its recipients—members of Congress, deputy postmasters, collectors, advertising newspapers—but, to secure the masses, a man of the People is required; and Mr. Douglas is the man of the Democratic masses. There is no other. The political race of Cass is nearly run. Mercy is gathered to his fathers. Bright has no master, even in his own State. Douglas alone in his Party has National position and power—all the attributes and advantages of a Party leader. The Kansas-Nebraska bill could never have passed Congress but for him, and but for him the "Democratic" Party in the Free States could never have stood under its burdens. If driven into the ranks of the Republicans, or if forced into retirement by exclusion from his Party, the South will be left unsupported in the Presidential contest of 1860.

The Extremists, or "fire-eaters," as they are called, understand all this perfectly well, and are in favor of driving masters to extremes—for this Northern alliance with the Democratic Party, they hold, only delays the beneficial and necessary measure of disunion. The Buchanan

Chaplains, it will be observed by our Congressional proceedings, that both Houses have declined this year to elect Chaplains, and passed resolutions inviting clergymen of this city to make arrangements for the necessary services. It is regarded, we suppose, as an experiment; and if it work well, the practice of electing Chaplains will be discontinued.

**PAINTING.**—The Democratic caucus candidate for Printer, Mr. Steedman, of Ohio, was elected. In the proceedings connected with his election, complaints were freely made against the enormous expenses of Printing, which reached, during the last Congress, two millions. Whose fault is it? That of members of Congress, who have taken to the business of book publishing with extraordinary energy. A committee was appointed to investigate the whole subject of printing—expenses, abuses, &c. We hope it may be able to recommend some salutary reform.

**HOUSING BILL.**—Mr. Grow, of Pennsylvania, deserves thanks for his prompt move in favor of a Homestead Bill. From year to year he has worked for this beneficial measure: we hope that this time he may prove successful.

**THE NEW SPEAKER.**—Colonel Orr, the new Speaker, is one of the ablest men in Congress, and perhaps the most capable man for the Speaker's chair in the Democratic ranks. He has served three terms in the House, and is well fitted for his post by an extensive experience. An exchange sketches his appearance and manners in the following brief fashion:

"Colonel Orr is man about forty, of large frame, of a round stomach, and with set of lungs of iron. When he rises to speak, his voice goes above the tumult of the House like a whistle of a locomotive. He is singularly prompt, quick-witted in argument and retort; and always pays the closest attention to every detail of House business. The dullest and most obstinate of the members of the House are put to shame by his presence."

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"But, no alteration shall be made to affect the right of property in the ownership of slaves."

Chosen, then, the "Constitution without Slavery," and still Slavery in the State is perpetuated forever, so far as a written Constitution could do it.

The following extract of a letter to the Jackson *Mississippian*, from a "friend" in the Lecompton Convention, written on the night that body closed its labors, shows that this was the precise effect intended to be secured, should a majority of votes be returned "for the Constitution without Slavery."

"Thus, you see that while, by submitting the question in this form, they are bound to have a ratification of the one or the other; and that, while it seems to be an election between a Free State and a Slave State Constitution, it is in fact a question of the future existence of Slavery as it is in controversy; and yet it furnishes our friends in Congress a basis or to rest their vindication of the admission of Kansas as a State under it into the Union, while they would not have it sent directly from the Convention."

**AN ENABLING BILL.**—Mr. Douglas has given notice of a bill to authorize the people of Kansas to form a State Constitution. This is undoubtedly the true policy in the present state of affairs. Let Kansas be treated as Minnesota and Oregon were treated. In fact, it were well to agree upon this policy of enabling bills, as a general usage in the case of Territories seeking to become States.

Reject the Lecompton fraud, and pass an enabling act, and the cloud which now threatens civil war will pass away.

**OREGON.**—A subscriber, writing from Astoria, on November 11th, says: "The 9th of November has just passed, and the vote has been taken on the proposed Constitution; but we know nothing of the result, except in this coun-

Party of the South, understanding the case no less clearly, may abstain from an act of proscription, which must leave the South without an efficient ally, and place it under the control of the Disunionists."

How was the Democratic Party in the free States enabled to react against the first effects of the Kansas-Nebraska act? By taking its stand on the doctrine of Popular Sovereignty, and persuading its adherents that to leave a People of a Territory free to accept or reject Slavery, was a sound Democratic doctrine, identical with the right of self-government, and that its operation would be sure to work for the extension of Freedom. On no other ground could the Party have been revived or held together.

This was the all-powerful argument of Mr. Douglas, by which he maintained at once his Party and himself. Its soundness, and the necessity of the policy it implied, were recognized by the Administration and its supporters, North and South, in relation to Kansas affairs. Mr. Douglas and his Northern associates, confident that it would be carried out, looked forward to growing power and popularity. The Legislature which was to decide whether he should be re-elected to the Senate of the United States would be chosen on the heels of the anticipated triumph of Popular Sovereignty in Kansas—and soon after would commence the preparations for the Presidential struggle of 1860.

The prospects were flattering; but in an evil hour, mischievous counsels prevailed—Popular Sovereignty is tramped under foot in the field which its triumph had been predicted, and the Party is now in a state of alarm."

It is the Known Nothing flavor of this provision that so delights Mr. Buchanan?

Power is conferred on the Legislature to incorporate a body of discount and issue, but not more than two branches: in other words, to confer the exclusive privilege of banking upon a single corporation. And yet, the bill of rights, a part of the same Constitution, declares that "all freemen, when they form a social compact, are equal in rights, and that no man or set of men is entitled to exclusive separation public emoluments, or privileges, but in consideration of public services."

In the bill of rights it is declared that "free negroes shall not be permitted to live in the State under any circumstances." Mr. Douglas, in his speech of the 12th, remarked that Illinois prohibited the immigration of free negroes, but did not interfere with those already resident in the State. This class of persons may at times become the subjects of oppression in the slave States, but no State has yet disgraced itself by the cruelty of driving them out. It was reserved for the Lecompton fraud, he knows that not only he must go down under the indignation of his constituents, but his Party must go down under a fearful reaction in 1860. By resistance, he may save himself; and if his resistance be effectual, he may also save his Party.

The article in relation to Slavery is as follows:

"ARTICLE VII.—Slavery."

"SEC. 1. The right of property is before and higher than any constitutional sanction, and the right of the owner of a slave to such slave and its increase is the same and as inviolable as the right of the owner of any property whatever."

And yet, in the closing part of the article, it provides that "any person who shall maliciously dismember or deprive a slave of life shall suffer such punishment as would be inflicted in case the like offence had been committed by a master or a slave holder to his slave."

"SEC. 2. The Legislature shall have no power to pass laws for the emancipation of slaves, without the consent of the owners, or without paying the owners previous to their emancipation, the value of the slaves as property."

"SEC. 3. In the prosecution of slaves for crimes of a higher grade than petit larceny, the power and all free States, and the right of property in their authority, and instituted for their benefit, and therefore they have at all times been an inviolable and indefeasible right to alter, reform, or abolish their form of Government in such manner as they may think proper."

"But, sir, there is other authority than the Administration of General Jackson in regard to Arkansas, and the position is an unanswerable one."

"SEC. 4. No person who shall maliciously dismember or deprive a slave of life, shall suffer such punishment as would be inflicted in case the like offence had been committed by a white person, and on the like proof, except in case of insurrection."

So if an owner, infatuated with passion, kill his slave, he must be hung. Would you hang the owner of an ox for knocking him in the head, or a master, for killing his dog? And yet the right of property in the two-legged animal, you tell us, "is as inviolable" as the right of the owner of any property whatever.

"SEC. 5. The Legislature shall have no power to pass laws for the emancipation of slaves, without the consent of the owners, or without paying the owners previous to their emancipation, the value of the slaves as property."

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## WASHINGTON ITEMS.

The news from the Utah expedition is important. Colonel Alexander's camp was near Harris's Fork, Green river. The Mormons had run off six hundred head of cattle belonging to the party. Governor Cumming was bent, if possible, upon entering Utah.

The Senatorial debate on the Kansas question, which came off last Wednesday week, attracted hundreds of listeners, who filled every seat in the gallery. A strong desire was manifest to hear Mr. Douglas's speech, and much sympathy was felt for him. The outburst of applause which followed the conclusion of his speech was an indication of this sympathy.

James W. Denver, of California, has been appointed by the President Secretary of Kansas Territory, in the place of Mr. Stanton, removed. In the Senate, no opposition to Denver was made by Mr. Douglas, and therefore the rejoicings of Administration journals are foolish. It is not an indication of the fate of the Lecompton Constitution before that body. The cause for the removal of Mr. Stanton was his official act of calling the new Territorial Legislature together.

"Ion," of the Baltimore Sun, remarks:

"The latest intelligence from Kansas fearfully complicates the question relating to that troublesome Territory. The Legislative elect were to meet, and assume the direction of the Territorial Government, which was called by Acting Governor Sinton not. It is a settled, undebatable authority, that it is then proposed to arrest the action of the Lecompton Convention, and enact laws making it a penal offence to hold the constitutional election, which is to take place on the 2d inst."

"General Denver has started on his mission to Kansas, but it is apprehended that he will not reach the Territory in time to exert his authority and influence for the maintenance of order. Governor Walker has not been removed, but probably will not return to the Territory as Governor, inasmuch as he coincides with the popular sentiment against the action of the Lecompton Convention."

"Kansas is therefore, or will be, before the 1st of July next, in open rebellion against the U. S. Territorial Government. There will be a fearful crisis, though it was not unforeseen. Gov. Walker advised the President that this would be the result."

William A. Richardson, of Illinois, has been appointed Governor of Nebraska Territory. What does this fact import? Mr. Richardson was the lieutenant of Mr. Douglas in the last Congress, and has been supposed to agree with him in his views of the doctrine of Popular Sovereignty. But the appointment of Mr. Richardson to office would seem to imply that he agrees with the Cabinet in the present crisis.

Senators Henderson and Houston are on their way to Washington.

## The Debates.

A list of American Slave.

We have received proof-sheets of a story with the above title from the publisher, H. Dayton, New York. It is a work of unusual power and interest. The style is simple, and the course of the story straightforward, and we predict for it a popular sale. We understand that the story is a perfectly true one, and that it was issued in a cumbrous form, and with many uninteresting episodes, before the day of cheap and popular books, yet, in spite of these drawbacks, it sold entirely out of print. The present story is abridged, and will be presented to the public in a readable shape. It will be issued in a few days, and, when we receive a copy, we shall review it more carefully.

The Hasheesh Eater. New York: Harper & Brothers. For sale by Taylor & Maury, Washington, D. C.

This is a singular book—in many respects one of power and a certain fascination. It is something in the vein of De Quincey's Opium Eater. Hasheesh is the secretion of an Eastern plant (*Cannabis Indica*) which possesses powerful stimulant and narcotic properties. This volume describes the effect of hasheesh upon the human system, and especially upon the mind. It will be found by the curious to possess much interest. The style in which it is written is nervous and graphic.

Sen. Senator Hunter, of Virginia, has just been re-elected to the United States Senate for six years from the 4th of March, 1859. He is a man of fine abilities, and is a friend to the Calhoun Constitution of Kansas. He will doubtless break a lance with Mr. Douglas upon the Senate floor.

The New House Printers.—Mr. Steadman, of Ohio, was elected Printer to the House by a union of his backers with those of Mr. Banks, of Virginia. The new firm will be that of "Banks & Steadman," and they are to issue a new journal, we learn. Mr. Steadman is the candidate of Mr. Douglas, and it has been supposed that the new paper will reflect Mr. Douglas's sentiments respecting Kansas, and advocate his interests. Says the Washington correspondent of the Richmond *South*:

"A very creditable feature in the arrangement is the prospective establishment by the copartners of a newspaper, of an improved standard, at the Capital, that will reflect the Democratic sentiment of the country. This is an evident improvement on the old beneficiary system, in which the public printing seems to have been regarded as a mere private emolument, without any attendant obligations to the party at large. The establishment of a press of a high Democratic standard, as Messrs. Banks and Steadman propose, that will not be a mere Executive organ, but that will reflect the Democratic sentiment of the country, patronage in fact being theirs, and not of the Executive branch of the Government, denotes decidedly a change for the better, implying as it does a due acknowledgment to the party, and conveying a public benefit not likely to be estimated in furnishing to the country a readable Washington paper. It is understood that the paper will be established some time between this and the 1st of January."

How is the new journal to satisfy Northern Democrats and the Southern ones at the same time, upon the Kansas question? If Mr. Douglas holds his position against the Administration, it would seem certain that the South will desert him. Mr. Banks's newspaper, the *South Side Democrat* upholds the Lecompton Constitution. Mr. Steadman, we understand, will not. Will the partners come to an agreement upon this matter? Perhaps by reflecting, not only Mr. Douglas's views, but those of the South—issuing the paper as several of the New Orleans journals are, one half in French, the other in English!

PARTY DISCIPLINE.—The action of the Pres. in dismissing John McKeon, of New York, from the office of District Attorney of the United States for that district, excites considerable attention throughout the country. Mr. McKeon is dismissed for opposing the election of Fernando Wood at the recent municipal election in New York. It is said that the Pres. did not like Mr. Wood, but will not tolerate any bolling from party nominations. This seems to indicate a disposition on the part of the President to enforce party discipline in a rigid manner. The *N. Y. Evening Post* remarks:

"If the reason assigned for the removal of Mr. McKeon by the Pres. is not, it is certainly calculated to shake the confidence of the most confiding in Mr. Buchanan's patriotism, and we may add, in his good sense, for no President in his senses, one would suppose, would deliberately undertake to carry Wood upon his shoulders since his defeat. Such a burden would have broken down the Administration of

General Washington. If Louis Napoleon has ever attempted a more direct or shameless interference with the elective franchise than this, the evidence of it has not yet transpired, so far as we know."

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OPENED.—The Congregational or Independent Church, on Fifth street, opposite the City Hall, in this city, was reopened last Sunday for public worship. The Rev. Mr. Bassett, of Illinois, is to supply the pulpit during the winter, and the friends of the enterprise hope that the residents of Washington who would like to see an independent, Anti-Slavery church established here, will attend its services. The sermon delivered last Sunday was one of much thought, research, and eloquence.

Strangers are freely invited to attend.

## THIRTY-FIFTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION.

Monday, December 14, 1857.

Senate.

The standing committee were announced. The death of Senator Butler was announced in appropriate terms by his colleague, Mr. Evans.

HOUSE.

After the announcement of the standing committee, the House resolved forthwith to occupy the new Hall.

The death of Senator Butler was announced by the Hon. Mr. Boyce, and the House adjourned.

Standing Committee of the House.

Committee of Elections.—Thomas L. Harris of Ills. W. Boyce of S. C. Israel Washburn of Me., John W. Stevenson of Ky., Ezra Clark of Connecticut, H. M. Phillips of Pa., J. A. Gilmer of N. C., L. Q. C. Lamar of Miss., and James Wilson of Indiana.

Of Ways and Means.—J. Glancy Jones of Pa., John B. Phelps of Mo., N. P. Banks of Ohio, John Leitcher of Va., L. D. Campbell of Ills., W. H. Davis of Md., J. Kelly of N. Y., William A. Howard of Mich., and J. E. Dowell of Ala.

Committee on Enrolled Bills.—T. G. Davidson of Louisiana and James Pike of New Hampshire.

Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.—William H. English of Ind., Benjamin Stanton of Ohio, and Lucius J. Garrett of Ga.

Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills.

Committee on the Public Buildings.—Albert G. Talbot of Kentucky, John W. Stewart of Pennsylvania, David Kilgore of Ind., Jacob M. Kunkel of Maryland, and Lucius J. Garrett of Georgia.

On Expenditures in the War Department.—Wilson Reilly of Penn., Clark B. Cochran of New York, Joseph R. Cockerill of Ohio, William Stewart of Pennsylvania, and John V. Wright of Tennessee.

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